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State Convention Offers Top Of Line Speakers

The 1977 meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention begins Nov. 15 at First Baptist Church, Jackson continuing through Nov. 17.

Theme of the convention is "Mission: Reaching Out With All Boldness."

This annual meeting will get underway at 8:50 a.m., Tuesday and messengers from the 1,900 Mississippi Baptist churches will vote on a record \$8,636,000 budget, receive reports on various phases of Baptist work in the state, and hear a number of speakers who head national Southern Baptist agencies.

Included in the agency chief list of speakers are: Grady Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission in Nashville; William Tanner, executive secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board

in Atlanta; Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville; and Darold Morgan, president of the Annuity Board.

A special guest speaker this year will be James Sullivan, a Mississippi native and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

These speakers are in addition to the regular features which include the President's address, given this year by Robert Hamblin, convention president and pastor of Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo; and the convention sermon, to be delivered by Carl Savell, pastor of Woodville Heights Baptist Church in Jackson.

Bible teacher for the convention will be Jerry Vardaman, director of the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University.

Hamblin will preside during the three day session of the convention. He is assisted by the other current officers of the convention who are Gene Triggs, of Yazoo City, first vice-president; John Barnes, of Hattiesburg, second vice president; Joe Odle of Jackson, recording secretary; and Paul Harwood, of Clarksdale, assistant recording secretary. Hamblin is serving the first of two possible terms as president.

Members of the committee on order of business, which is charged with putting on the convention program, includes Graham Smith of Hattiesburg;

Ray Lloyd of Starkville; Jim Hurt of Cleveland; Sarah Rouse of Clinton; Glenn Sullivan of Clarksdale; Clark McMurray (chairman) from Pascagoula; Julia Otis from Tupelo; Macklyn Hubbell from Cleveland; and Robert Hamblin, ex officio member from Tupelo.

Fitts Is Injured

Trujillo, Peru — Southern Baptist missionary Marvin E. Fitts, a native of Pontotoc, Miss., is expected to be hospitalized here for a minimum of ten days, recuperating from a two car collision here Saturday, Oct. 29.

Fitts received multiple fractures of the left leg and ribs following the 6:45 p.m. collision near Trujillo, according to Fitts' wife Jean.

The missionary and several others were traveling to a Baptist camp when the collision occurred, she said. A university student also was slightly injured in the wreck, but was not hospitalized.

Stationed in Trujillo, the couple works at the Baptist Theological Institute of Peru.

Mrs. Fitts is from Lucy, Tenn.

Main Speakers Include Agency Chiefs



McMurray



Hamblin



Kelly



Vardaman



Savell



Sullivan



Cothen



Morgan



Tanner



Valentine



Routh

Signs Of Praise

A group of deaf persons are making the sign for "praise the Lord" while singing during the recent Deaf Bible Study Retreat at Paul B. Johnson State park near Hattiesburg. The retreat was sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (See inside for more pictures.)

Missouri Baptists Decline Action On Student Grants Continue Public Aid

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — Missouri Baptists declined to take any action on a report from a special study committee which recommended that two of the convention's four colleges withdraw from a state sponsored student aid program.

During the annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the Public Aid Study Committee recommended the withdrawal after advising the 2,147 registered "messengers" and visitors that the state law requires schools not to discriminate on religious grounds in hiring faculty, staff and administrators.

"The law says our schools cannot discriminate on religious grounds," said one committee member. "Our convention policies say the schools must. The two are not compatible."

Messengers, however, opted to refer the public aid question to a new committee for additional study and expanded the scope to include all "Missouri Baptist agencies, institutions, churches and individuals." The original study committee had been limited to public aid and the colleges.

The two participating schools, William Jewell College at Liberty and Southwest College at Bolivar, have about 600 students in state grant programs. William Jewell reported \$202,022

in Missouri grant funds. Southwest reported \$162,000.

Two other Missouri Baptist schools voted not to participate in the Missouri grant program. Trustees of Missouri Baptist College, St. Louis, and Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, said the program was not in accord with Baptist principles.

In other action, the convention adopted a record \$7.9 million budget, 33.3 percent of which will go to national Southern Baptist causes, and approved resolutions on abortion, decriminalization of marijuana and Sunday sales.

Messengers pledged support for "banning abortion" except in cases of proven incest of rape or to save the life of a mother. An amendment supporting a constitutional amendment banning abortion failed.

The resolution on decriminalization of marijuana cited "increasing medical research" indicating its harm to the body and potential damage to children born to marijuana users. It also mentioned that death due to drug overdose had doubled in California since marijuana was decriminalized last year. The resolution pledges opposition to decriminalization efforts in Missouri and support for drug education programs.

The Sunday sales resolution com-

mended a "Save our Sundays" organization in Kansas City. This group, led by Independence pastor, John Hughes of First Baptist Church, is fighting a local referendum to permit general Sunday sales in that area. The resolution contended that Sunday sales would result in higher prices, increased crime, waste of energy and additional strain on family life.

Unanimously elected president of the convention was Paul Swadley, pastor of South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield. Next year's convention is set for Oct. 23-25, 1978, St. John's Baptist Church, St. Louis.

High Attendance Day Report

A total of 212,491 persons were reported in the Sunday Schools of Mississippi Baptist Church on High Attendance Sunday, October 30. Our state goal for this year was 255,000.

In 1975 Mississippi high attendance was 212,920 and in 1976 the attendance reached 210,913. A number of Sunday Schools across the state achieved an unusual high percentage of attendance based on enrollment.

Baptists Were Not Target Of Bombers

JERUSALEM, Israel (BP) — Reports indicate that the Oct. 9 bombing of the Baptist House here may have been a part of a larger campaign against Jewish Christians.

"There is reason to believe that the bombing was not directed specifically at Baptists," said J. D. Hughey, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia.

According to Hughey, there have been threats and other incidents of vandalism and violence directed toward groups of Jewish believers, including incidents in Rosh Pina and Nazareth.

The Baptist School in Nazareth has been broken into and vandalized twice in the last two years and the Jerusalem Baptist Book Store was also broken into.

Those responsible for the bombing and other incidents have not been positively identified, but are believed to be a minority group of religious zealots, according to Hughey.

Baptist House, the Baptist headquarters building in west Jerusalem, was slightly damaged when a bomb, which police believe was a grenade,

(Continued on page 2)

Martinique

Baptists Enter 89th Country

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptists have begun work in their 89th country — Martinique, a small independent island-nation in the Caribbean.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Shehane, Southern Baptist missionaries to Guadeloupe, another island-nation near Martinique, transferred to the new mission field in October.

Charles W. Bryan, the board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, said Southern Baptists have been looking toward the opening of work in Martinique since 1961. At that time, an extensive survey of the Caribbean recommended that work be started on this large and prosperous island, a part of the French West Indies.

At one point, a missionary was appointed to that area, but he came to feel he was better suited to open up work in Guadeloupe, Bryan noted. A recent increase in personnel on Guadeloupe made it possible for the Shehanes to move to Martinique. Shehane, a pastor on Guadeloupe since 1974, made his own survey of Martinique and "felt the time had come to begin new work," Bryan said.

Chief industry of the mountainous island, which has 385 square miles and an approximate population of 350,000, is the exportation of sugar and tropical

fruits. French is spoken by most, and the population is of mixed origin, including descendants of French Indo-Chinese immigrants. Located in the east Caribbean as part of the Windward Islands, Martinique became part of the French republic in 1790 and gained status as a French "department" in 1946.

Bryan sees the next priority for Southern Baptist work in the Caribbean as French Guiana and Haiti. "We have a goal of having a Southern Baptist missionary in Haiti by 1979," he said.

Southern Baptists are serving in every geographical area of Middle America, and only four islands — Cuba, French Guiana, Haiti and Dutch Antilles — are not served by a Southern Baptist mission (organization of missionaries) in the Caribbean, Bryan said.

He described Southern Baptist growth in Middle America and the Caribbean as "unbelievable," noting that in the past 10 years people in the Caribbean have "become more aware of themselves and their role in the world, of the developing of nations in the world, and the third world powers. This affects our work," he said. "People are looking for a new way of life. The gospel, proclaimed by Baptists, gives them this opportunity."

Carey Offers Bold Mission Thrust Glimpse

Bold Mission Day at William Carey College on November 1 gave hundreds of South Mississippi Baptists an exciting new look at missions. Its purpose was to challenge them to think and pray in terms of becoming personally involved in serving the Lord as "volunteer missionaries" for one to two years.

Moderated by Mississippi layman, Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, two sessions were held. The afternoon dialogue dealt with exploration of the new Mission Service Corps, adopted by Southern Baptists at Kansas City in June. The evening rally was a two-hour inspirational event which featured most aspects of missionary participation from the career missionary, journeyman, student summer missionary to the "missionary kid." Denominational leaders from the major boards and agencies participated in the day's program.

"We know that there are many details of the new volunteer missionary service program that we have not finalized," commented Lewis Myers of the Foreign Mission Board, "but we do know enough to get started recruiting grassroots Baptist lay people with a variety of skills who have a real desire to serve on a mission field for a short period of time."

"There will be problems related to financing such a program," said Owen Cooper. "We cannot allow this to interfere at all with our Cooperative Prog-

ram gifts or special mission offerings. But there are Baptist folk who will be willing to give above and beyond to help send volunteer missionaries from their church or their area. I am convinced of this!"

Christine Gregory, president of Woman's Missionary Union spoke of the delight in knowing that Bold Missions is becoming such a 'household word' in Baptist churches across the nation. Helen Falls of New Orleans Seminary reconfirmed the commitment of the six seminaries to educating young people to participate in any part of the missionary endeavor to which they feel called.

Norman Godfrey of the Brotherhood Commission and Lyndon Collings of the Home Mission Board helped in fielding questions from the floor as Baptist lay people and Baptist pastors and staff persons sought answers to Mission Service Corps opportunities and responsibilities.

James Clark, of the Sunday School Board, participated as did Mr. and Mrs. Van Payne, recently returned Journeyman from Kenya. Dr. and Mrs. John McNair, furloughing medical missionaries from Spain, presented a testimony in music and provided the missionary's point of view as to the needs on the field and the roles that volunteers can play.

The William Carey College Chorale set the theme and the spirit of the evening.

(Continued on page 3)



It's Harvest Time In The Delta

When it's cotton picking time in the Delta, it's time again for Harvest Day at Straight Bayou Church in Sharkey County. There, as in many other churches in Mississippi, it is a time for displays of choice items from the year's crop, a time for homecoming and dinner on the grounds, a time to offer thanks to God for His goodness. At Harvest Day on November 6, Mrs. Maggie Bates, above, one of Straight Bayou's oldest members, showed Pastor Harold Jones how she used to pick cotton. For additional pictures, see page 5. (Photo by Anne McWilliams)

Baptist Historical Commission Offers Church Records Storage

"The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission exists to serve the Baptists of Mississippi," states Alice Cox, the Commission librarian.

Located on the second floor of Mississippi College's Leland Speed Library, the Commission provides stor-

age for church and associational records and a reading room for those who wish to research some phase of Mississippi Baptist history.

The Commission offers to each church the use of its storage vault for the protection of precious and irreplaceable church roll and minute books. Before these records are stored, they are microfilmed. Then, if a church does remove its records from the vault, the microfilm copy remains in the reference collection.

The Commission also keeps a file of material about each Baptist church, association, college, and Convention agency.

"We urge groups and individuals to send material for these files," said Mrs. R. A. McLemore, acting executive secretary. "Needed are histories

of churches and associations whether length or brief, paperbound or hardbound; copies of programs from any special occasions such as dedications; biographical information about preachers and lay people; clippings or any other material that contains history of Baptists in Mississippi."

One unique reference tool in the collection is an index to the Baptist Record which is being prepared by Edwin Robinson. This, together with the Commission's complete file of the Baptist Record, will be of great value to researchers.

Mrs. McLemore and Mrs. Cox invite readers of this article to visit the Commission in Clinton. They also urge each church congregation to consider making the Commission the repository for historical collections.

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Washington, D. C. (RNS) — A new audience survey by A. C. Nielsen Co., reveals that a report three of every five American homes owning television sets now watch public television regularly.

Jerusalem (RNS) — Israel's parliament (the Knesset) is considering a bill that would authorize a five-year prison term, and/or a \$5,000 fine, to those who offer "material inducements" to would-be Jewish converts to Christianity.

Denver (RNS) — Guru Maharaj Ji, 19-year-old leader of the Divine Light Mission, became an American citizen in U.S. District Court here.

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul proclaimed two 19th Century religious-school teachers from Ecuador and Belgium "blesseds" of the Roman Catholic Church in a beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square. Beatified were Brother Miguel Febres Cordero of Ecuador and Brother Mutien-Marie Wiaux of Belgium, both members of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Christian Brothers), a religious institute founded in 1680 in France by St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle. Beatification is a preliminary step toward possible canonization of a saint.

London (EP) — After 17 years of successful operation in Ethiopia, the Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) has withdrawn from the east African country because of internal conflict by guerrillas and war with adjoining Somalia. MAF said the Fellowship's five planes had been flown out of the country to Nairobi, the capital of nearby Kenya, and would be used in the Sudan and Tanzania. A few missionaries have chosen to — or been forced to — stay behind in Ethiopia, and they will be looking after Ethiopian believers. The interdenominational specialist mission provides air transport to more than 60 missionary organizations and national churches in 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It operates in areas where roads are poor or non-existent, giving missionaries a fast and economical means of travel.

Cogan Station, Pa. (EP) — Fairlawn Community Church here, a Christian & Missionary Alliance congregation, has found a way to eliminate two evils with one move. It has decided to purchase the nearby Route 15 Drive-In for \$42,500 from its owner Solar Sportsystems of Buffalo, N. Y. In so doing, the congregation will end the showing of X-rated movies at the outdoor facility and will also acquire land to put up a new church out of the flood plain on which its present building is located.

Rochester, Minn. (EP) — Episcopal Bishop Philip F. McNairy of Minnesota, in his final report to the diocese, said that he is opposed to the ordination of homosexuals and added that during his tenure he had removed four priests from the active ministry who had admitted being practicing homosexuals.

BAPTIST VILLAGE, Israel — A Baptist layman, Ibrahim Sim'an, told participants in the 24th annual Baptist Conference here that the meeting is like "a family reunion" of the Baptist community in Israel. "It is a time of strengthening to face the challenge of being one flock under one Shepherd in this land," he said. During the three-day session Yaacov Chores, a Baptist pianist and composer from Tel Aviv, was so inspired by the conference theme of "One Flock, One Shepherd" that he spent a night writing a new melody for the 23rd Psalm. At the concluding worship service, his wife, Esther, also a professional musician, sang the Psalm in Hebrew to his accompaniment.

QUELUZ, Portugal — The Portuguese Baptist Theological Seminary here opened the new school year with 18 students, the largest class in the nine-year history of the institution, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Norman L. Harrell. Opening speaker was Lester Carl Bell, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil and the first director of the seminary. Manuel Alexandre Jr., the present director, announced the new enrollment. The seminary has awarded one advanced degree, the bachelor of theology, to Abineli Macaia.

NAZARETH, Israel — Baptist schools and kindergartens in the Galilee region here have high enrollments this year despite the increased fees necessitated by the inflated economy of the country. Children from Muslim and Druze communities, as well as those from the various Christian denominations, attend kindergartens in Ramah, Tur'an and Nazareth and the elementary and high schools in Nazareth. The Druze sect originated among Muslims and is centered in the mountains of Lebanon and Syria. There are 548 students enrolled in the Nazareth school, kindergarten through grade 12, according to Elizabeth (Mrs. James W.) Smith, Southern Baptist representative. In the Galilee village of Ramah 20 children, ages 3 and 4, attend kindergarten and in Tur'an village near Cana 45 children from ages 2 to 5 are enrolled in a similar kindergarten program.

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Gulf Coast Leader Moves To Texas

J. W. Brister, executive director of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association since March 1, 1976, submitted his resignation at the annual associational meeting on October 18.



Brister assumed new responsibilities as missionary administrator of the Austin Baptist Association in Austin, Tex. on Nov. 1.

Brister had served in the Gulf Coast association since July 1957 when he became pastor of the Gulfport Heights Church while finishing his last year in New Orleans Seminary.

Following graduation the next March he served Gulfport Heights as full time minister until November 1, 1958 when he became the pastor of First Church, Long Beach. There he served as pastor until 1966 when he became missionary director.

His resignation will end a tenure of service for more than 20 years to the churches and people of the Gulf Coast Association.

Baptist Editor Search Begins

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP) — A search committee has been named to seek the successor to James F. Cole, who will resign in December after 20 years as editor of Louisiana's Baptist Message.

Charles Harvey, pastor of Sunset Acres Baptist Church, Shreveport, will serve as chairman. Other members are Guy Futral Jr., First Baptist Church, Covington, La.; Fred W. Jones Jr. of Ruston, La.; and two ex officio members, Lad W. Behehrad of De Ridder, La., chairman of the Baptist newspaper's board of trustees, and Glen Edwards, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

Cole, will become executive director of the Baylor University Alumni Association in Waco, Tex., effective Jan. 1.

Action Center Matches Volunteer Skills With Needs

The Voluntary Action Center in Jackson helps individuals find ways to match their time, interests and skills with opportunities to volunteer. A great variety of people are discovering how the center can help others: a blind man is helping people with emotional problems, a young girl plays the piano for nursing home residents, a school teacher spent her summer helping at a rehabilitation center, a working nurse helped tutor, a geologist is reading to a blind lady.

Israel Bombing

(Continued from page 1)
explosion near the kitchen entrance. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek said the municipality, which has a fund for repairing private property damage by bombings of terrorists, will finance repairs.

Johnson, Baptist Educator, Dies at 89

MONTICELLO, Ark. (BP) — Charles D. Johnson, distinguished Southern Baptist educator, author and editor, died Oct. 19 at age 89. He and his wife, who survives, had lived here since retirement in 1963.

Johnson, who was president of two colleges, was one of the founders of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1915 and served as its chairman for 21 years. He also founded its official publication, the "Southern Baptist Educator," serving as its editor for 15 years.

He was also author of a history of Southern Baptist education, "Higher Education of Southern Baptists," a volume published in 1956 which still ranks as an authoritative publication in its field.

College presidencies included service at Ouachita Baptist College (now University), Arkadelphia, Ark., and Arkansas A & M, Monticello. He served two years as dean of Blue Mountain College, after retiring in 1961 from the faculty and administration of Baylor University, where he spent 30 years. At Baylor, he was chairman and professor in the de-

partments of journalism and sociology.

During his extended professional career, Johnson became a widely acclaimed and popular speaker, known for his ardent espousal of educational and literary causes, his Mark Twain-like humor and his manner of the "Southern Gentlemen."



Calvary To Dedicate Sanctuary

Calvary Church, Smithdale (Amite) will dedicate a new sanctuary Nov. 20. Andy Stuckey, pastor, will deliver the dedication message during the morning worship service which begins at 10:45 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow. Former pastors, Sam Simmons and Allen Parnell, will speak during the afternoon service which begins at 1:15 p.m. Leon Wroten, chairman of deacons, who served as the coordinator for the building program, will lead the prayer of dedication.



Clarke Begins President's Home

A decision to begin construction on a new home for the president of Clarke College has been announced by the trustees. A ground breaking ceremony was held at the conclusion of the fall meeting, attended by the trustees and members of the Development Council who were meeting on the same day. Funds for the new home, to be built at the corner of Highway 80 and the west entrance to the campus, have been assured by individual donors. Construction will begin as soon as working plans are completed. Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were: (left to right) H. A. Milner, Jackson; John Brock, Gautier; Hugh Poole, Macon; President Emeritus W. L. Compere; Clarke President S. L. Harris.

Catholic Church Opens In Oman

VATICAN CITY (RNS) — Archbishop Simon D. Lourdasamy, secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, has consecrated a new church in Muscat, the capital of Oman, a sultanate on the southeastern coast of the Arabian peninsula.

The ceremony was attended by officials of the Arab nation, the Vatican announced.

The church, which stands on land donated by Sultan Qaboos bin Said, head of state, is the first in an area in which Capuchin missionaries have been working.

Islam is the official religion of Oman. At least 75 per cent of its population (1975) of 800,000 are Muslims. Virtually all Christians in Oman are foreigners.

Freeport, Bahamas (RNS) — Marena Belle Williams of Kansas City, Mo., became the first black woman to head the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) at its sixth continental assembly here.

Deaf Attend Bible Study Retreat



Approximately 20 deaf and 18 hearing people including children and family of the deaf and some deaf workers, were included in the deaf retreat. Here they talk animatedly. Part of the retreat program was devoted to the hearing children of the deaf adults. In a related matter, First Baptist Church of Clinton is holding a revival for the deaf, Nov. 11-13. Clifford Bruffey, deaf missionary to the deaf in Washington, D. C., who helped begin Baptist work with the deaf in Mississippi, will preach. Services begin Friday at 7:30 p.m. with a fellowship following. Saturday will offer a covered dish supper at 5 p.m. with services at 6:45. Sunday school on the 13th is at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall for the deaf. Then worship services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Gary Shoemaker, pastor for the deaf at Spring Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., was Bible study leader during the retreat for the deaf Oct. 29-30. Shoemaker is pictured making the sign for "foundation." He was speaking on the importance of developing a Christian family. Rodney Webb of the Convention board staff, did reverse interpreting. He verbalized Shoemaker's signs for the hearing at the conference.



Missions panel answers Bold Mission Thrust questions.



Lewis Myers, former missionary to Vietnam, was the main speaker.

Carey Offers Glimpse

(Continued from page 1)

ing Mission Rally with a musical interpretation of Bold Missions. Donald Winters is the conductor of this group. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention led in a prayer period for the entire Bold Mission Thrust program. Ralph Noonkester, president of William Carey College, said, "With a name like William Carey, we must say to Mississippi Baptists and to you here today that we want to do our part to make this goal come to pass." The school's ministerial association members assisted throughout the day. The electronic services of Mike Gustine of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, provided technical help.

Midwestern Elects Miles To Evangelism

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Delos Miles was elected associate professor of evangelism at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective Feb. 7, 1978, by the school's trustees during their semi-annual board meeting. In other developments, the board focused on further faculty additions, academic program revisions, campus restoration projects and long-range planning procedures. Filling the postestablished by the trustees at their Spring meeting, Miles, 44, comes from the South Carolina Baptist Convention where he has served the director of evangelism and church services division since 1974. Prior to that position he had served over seven years as director of the evangelism department for the state.

Miles, who has also served as as-

sociate secretary of evangelism in Virginia, held pastorates in both Virginia and South Carolina. On two separate occasions, he has taught at Midwestern as an adjunct professor in the evangelism area. A native of Florence County, S. C., he is a graduate of Furman University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned a doctorate at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Evangelism

Youth Evangelism Conference Set

Humorist Grady Nutt headlines the State Youth Evangelism Conference Dec. 29-30 at Broadmoor Baptist Church, 787 East Northside Drive, in Jackson.

An ordained minister, Nutt has not yet appeared on the Tonight Show, but his rare blend of humor and reverence gives him a special appeal to Christian audiences.

Nutt will be joined on the program by singer and composer David Meece who performed his contemporary gospel music for the recent Baptist Student Convention in Columbus.

Theme of the conference, which is aimed at junior and senior high school students, is "Reaching In To Reach Out." It is sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Roy Collum, director.

Registration begins at 1 p.m., Dec. 29, and the conference ends at 8:30 p.m. on the 30th. The only cost item for the conference is a \$2 syllabus which relates to the seminar studies.

Other conference leaders include Donn Poole, minister of youth for Broadmoor Church; Mike Jeter, minister of youth for Jackson's First Baptist Church; and Jan Cossitt, minister of youth for Morrison Heights Baptist Church, in Clinton. Harry Blondheim, nutrition expert

National Baptists

Resource Personnel Named

Resource personnel for the five regional conferences on National and Southern Baptist awareness include Richard S. Porter and B. Carlisle Driggers.

Porter, a native of Gloster, Miss., is pastor of Owens Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia. He is presented of the East Mississippi Baptist State Convention and serves as co-chairman along with Earl Kelly, of the joint bi-racial committee which is planning a two year evangelistic campaign.

Carey Invites Prospective Students For A Saturday

High school and junior college students from across Mississippi are invited to visit William Carey College, Hattiesburg, on Prospective Student Day, Nov. 19.

Activities for Prospective Student Day have been planned to give students an overview of Carey's campus life. Following registration and refreshments from 8:30-9:30 a.m., participants will be assigned to small groups for campus tours. During the three-hour period prior to lunch, students will be introduced to faculty members from various fields of study.

During the afternoon, following complimentary lunch, students will be entertained by the Carey College Chorus.

Also providing entertainment during the day-long event will be Carey's Madrigal Singers and the Carpenter's

McIntire Returns To The Pastorate

Russell M. McIntire, who served for 20 years as pastor of First Church, Clinton before becoming vice president for development of New Orleans Seminary, has been called as pastor of Oak Park Church in New Orleans.

He is currently serving as interim pastor of the church and will begin full time pastorate at the end of the seminary's semester on Dec. 15.



Porter

Driggers

Driggers, former pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Morgantown, W. Va., serves on the staff of the Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

The conferences will be held regionally as follows: Nov. 28, Tupelo, Ramada Inn; Nov. 29, Greenville, associational office; Dec. 1, Columbia, South Columbia Baptist Mission Center; Dec. 2, McComb, Continental Restaurant.

Wood, both student musical groups. Reservations are being accepted by the Director of Admissions, William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

Thursday, November 16, 1977

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Cooperative Program Enters 1977-78 Slowly

NASHVILLE (BP) — After a strong finish at the close of the 1976-77 fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget began the 1977-78 year slowly.

Undesignated Cooperative Program receipts for October, the first month in the new fiscal year, totaled \$4,345,905, only 2.96 percent ahead of \$4,221,121 contributed during the same month last year.

Total contributions, including another \$421,373 in designated contributions, amount to \$4,767,278 — about one-half of a percent above last year's figure at the same point.

The 1977-78 Cooperative Program goal is \$63,400,000, or \$8,400,000 higher than the 1976-77 goal. That figure includes \$55,000,000 in basic operating and capital needs for the world missions program of SBC agencies and an additional \$8,320,000 in challenge funds for unmet world missions needs.

National Cooperative Program receipts, channeled through the office of Timothy Hedquist, director of financial planning and assistant to the executive secretary of the SBC Execu-

tive Committee, amount to about one third of the funds received by state Baptist conventions. The amount received by state conventions is about one tenth of the contributions from more than 35,000 Southern Baptist churches across the U.S.

Southern Baptists have been challenged to double total Cooperative Program contributions (including both state and national levels) by 1982 and then double twice more by the end of the century to fulfill the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goal to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — A 1978 budget of \$114.5 million is the largest ever set for the worldwide work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Adventist church maintains 4,209 elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools, worldwide, with a total enrollment of 441,764. It also operates 135 hospitals and sanitariums around the world, 50 of which are in the U.S. and Canada.

The Missions Task

Direct Missions?

By John Alexander, Director Stewardship Department

It amazes me to see how a few laymen and pastors get caught up in what they call "direct missions." Most of these fellows seem otherwise to be perfectly normal, intelligent people. Perhaps it is thoughtlessness on their part that leads them into this kind of trap. They just don't think it through.

I can understand how they visit a particular field of mission work and get caught up in the needs they see. It is this way on every mission field. I cannot understand how they feel a deep urge to respond to what they see. I cannot understand why they want to run the high risk of wasting their gifts by putting them in unsupervised and unaccountable projects when a better way is available offering every known safeguard and guarantee of permanence available to the work.

Would these same persons be willing to invest in a manufacturing plant that had no supervision or assignment of responsibility, a project where the workers came in when and if they wanted to? No, they would want a plant supervisor and shift supervisors to oversee the entire operation!

Millions of dollars of Baptist money are bled off annually by persons and projects that could otherwise be used wisely and effectively under the responsible supervision of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

A part of responsible Christian stewardship is wise investment of money given to religious causes. "Give an account of thy stewardship" is a moment of judgment every living Christian must yet face.

Borrowing a statement from Paul in I Cor. 12:31b, I would say, "... and yet show I unto you a more excellent way." Jeremiah pleads with his people (6:16) to "... stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...". The writer of Proverbs (11:14) put it this way, "Where no wise guidance is the people faileth; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

To evoke massive support, any worthy project or program must be responsibly managed and regularly reported on. The answers to several questions should be determined by any responsible Baptist before he pours money into any extra-denominational project or program:

1. Who is responsible for studying and certifying the need for the project or program?
 2. Who determines the best and most productive methods of operation?
 3. Who carries on the work if the principal promoter passes from the scene?
 4. Are the missionaries salaried or how do they receive from your gifts?
 5. Who determines the doctrinal beliefs of the directly supported missionaries?
 6. How much of the money received is spent for administration, how much goes into mission work? How do you know?
 7. How are funds raised by the group? By a play on emotions or actual field results?
 8. Who provides you a copy of a public audit of the expenditure of funds?
- Brother Baptist, your church budget and the work of your denominational mission boards continues to be the wisest and cheapest method yet demonstrated for funding a workable world-wide effort for Christ. Think about it!

New from the author of award-winning *Sounder*

JOANNA'S MIRACLE



by William H. Armstrong

Biblically-based fiction of classical proportions describes this heart-touching story of a crippled girl in first century Palestine.

Joanna, born with a withered arm and twisted foot, hears stories about the wonderful Jesus of Nazareth. She is amazed by the accounts of his miracles of healing and sets out to meet him. There would be dangers ... but nothing would stop her search.

Intriguing reading for the young and old alike. \$5.95

At Your Baptist Book Store from BROADMAN

State Gifts 9% Higher So Far

Through the first 10 months of 1977 Cooperative Program gifts through the office of the treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board have been 9.1 per cent higher than for the same period of last year.

Total gifts through October of this year have amounted to \$6,432,887 as compared with \$5,894,678 for the same period of 1976.

Cooperative Program gifts for October were \$508,081, which was the lowest total for the year. The October 1977 total was \$30,755 less than for the same month of 1976.

"Even with October being the lowest month of the year in Cooperative Program giving, we are still 9.1 per cent above the total for the year as compared with last year," said Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "Missions is still at the forefront of our efforts," he said.

"Bro. C" Assumes New Title

S. L. Harris, President of Clarke College, has announced a change in the staff position of J. B. Costilow. "Bro. C," as he is known to the students, has been designated director of religious activities at Clarke.

In the enlarged responsibility he will have supervision of all religious organizations on the campus. He will direct all special religious emphases and programs and will serve as chairman of the Chapel Committee.

Costilow has served as Baptist Student Union director at Clarke since 1956 and the new position has been arrived at in cooperation with the Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Restaurant Guide For Convention

Here is a handy list of restaurants for use during The Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 15-17. The restaurants and eating places listed below are members of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce:

Admiral Benbow Inn Restaurant, 905 North State Street; Airways Inn Restaurant, Highway 90 East; Alamo Plaza Restaurant, Highway 90 East; Bernard's Le Bourguignon, Quarter Specialty Center; Bon Appetit Cafe, 237 S. Lamar Street; Bonanza Sirloin Pit, 4791 I-55 North; Bonanza Sirloin Pit, 2682 Highway 90 West; Burger King of Jackson, Highway 90 West; Catfish Cabin, 2085 Lakeland Drive; Conestoga Steak House, 180 Chelsea Court; Denney's, 740 East Silas Brown; Downtown Restaurant, 225 E. Capitol Street; El Palacio, 5404 I-55 North; Elite Cafe, 141 East Capitol Street; Gibbs Pizza Palace, Westland Plaza; Golden Dragon, 4325 North State Street; Green Derby, 1510 Ellis Avenue; The Hill Restaurant, 2555 Valley Street; Holiday Inn Downtown, 200 East Amite Street; Holiday Inn Medical Center, 2375 North State Street; Holiday Inn North, I-55 North; Holiday Inn Southwest, 2649 Highway 90 West; Howard Johnson's Restaurant, I-55 South; Jackson Hilton Restaurant, 750 North State Street; Jobie's Fried Chicken, 1940 Lynch Street;

Kentucky Fried Chicken, 2510 Robinson Road; Krystal, 436 East Capitol Street; Krystal, 1761 Terry Road; Le Fleur's Restaurant, I-55 North, Jacksonian; Long John Silvers, 1171 Ellis Avenue; McDonald's, 2435 Livingston Road; McDonald's, 4710 I-55 North; Morrison's Cafeteria, Woodland Hills Building; Old Time Delicatessen, 1305 East Northside Drive; Oliver's, 112 Highland Village; Pasquale's, 4400 North State Street; Paul's Restaurant, 1955 Highway 90 West; J. C. Penney Luncheon, Jackson Mall; Piccadilly Cafeteria, 161 Jackson Mall; Pizza Hut, 4749 I-55 North; Post's Quarter Specialty Center; Primos No. 1, 224 East Capitol Street; Primos No. 2, 1018 North State Street; Primos Northgate, 4300 North State Street; Ramada Inn - Coliseum, 400 Greyhound Street; Rodhouse, I-55 North; Sambo's, 130 Angle Drive; Sandwich Board, 119 N. Lamar Street; Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 625 Fendren Place; Shoney's, Westland Plaza; Shoney's, Highland Village Shopping Center; Snack Shop, 1222 North State Street; Sonic Drive-In, 2943 Terry Road; Sun-N-Sand, 401 North Lamar Street; TGI Friday's, Highland Village Shopping Center; Tarrymore, Highway 90 W. at Terry Road; Western Sizzlin, 3080 Highway 90 West; Western Sizzlin, I-55 North.



The Baptist Children's Village

FLAG CHAPEL DRIVE • P. O. BOX 11308 • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39213

THANKSGIVING - 1977 -

Dear Village Friend,

November signals, for all of us, the end of another year of privileged living in this land of plenty. November, for many of us, marks the beginning of a holiday observance and celebration, particularly meaningful to children and families, which is the happiest time of the year. November, for most of us, heralds a period of expressed gratitude, special in its significance because we are Americans and because we are Christians.

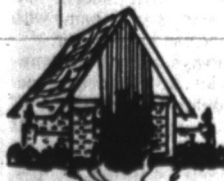
"Mississippi's largest family", including the hundreds of boys and girls and staff leaders who make their homes at The Children's Village, allow me to greet you each November, and, on their behalf, acknowledge our appreciation to you and our gratitude to God for you. It is their prayer, and mine, that Thanksgiving, 1977 may be, for you and yours, a happy ending to a fruitful year and a blessed beginning to a season of thanks.

For our children, we would humbly and respectfully remind you to literally count your blessings in home and family, not only for material joys, but more importantly, for the love, understanding and emotional support which you share. Our boys and girls - not so fortunate as the members of your family - appreciate the value of those blessings as only those who do not enjoy them can know.

Now, we thank God for you and your family and for the difference you make for our big family.

Sincerely,

PAUL N. NUNNERY
Executive Director



The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Mississippi Baptist Convention

A Missions Experience

The Mississippi Baptist Convention is not just a run of the mill meeting. At this annual session Baptists gather to take a number of actions that have a profound effect on missions work all around the world.

For instance, directors and trustees of all the agencies, boards, and institutions of the convention are elected. The persons who are elected are directly involved in missions work, and so are those who elect them.

Our colleges provide missionaries and teach of missions work; our hospitals perform wonderful works of healing; the Convention Board makes numerous decisions concerning missions work all over the world—and the list could go on. The election of these people is of vital concern to our missions program.

A record budget for next year will be considered. It is \$8,636,000. This is not a great deal larger than this year, but it is some bigger, and thus a record. This is missions money, and any decision concerning it is a decision concerning missions.

Convention officers will be elected, and how important all of these posts are. Normally the convention president is elected for a second term. Bob Hamblin, pastor of Harrisburg Church in Tupelo, has completed one term and has served in a magnificent manner during this past year.

Other officers who have served this year are Gene Triggs, a Yazoo City layman, first vice-president; John Barnes Jr., pastor of Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, second vice-president; Joe T. Odle, retired editor of the Baptist Record, recording secretary; and Paul Harwood, a member of Clarksdale Baptist Church, assistant recording secretary.

Appreciation is due the convention committee on order of business for a fine program. Clark McMurray, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, is chairman. Jim Keith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, is vice-chairman; and Glenn Sullivan, pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale, is secretary. Other members are Sarah Rouse, faculty member

at Mississippi College; Graham Smith, minister of music at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; and Macklyn Hubbell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland.

Mississippi's Bold Mission Thrust will be initiated during the Tuesday evening session of the convention, and this will be an exciting presentation that has not been matched before. There will be eight slide projects and three screens in a multi-media presentation that will motivate and inspire those who are in attendance. In addition, Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will speak.

Surely it is a time of fellowship between friends who don't have much opportunity to be together, and it is a time of catching up on all that has gone on between conventions.

But it is primarily a time of very important business concerning a worldwide witness, and it demands as broad a base of representation as is possible to provide.

Personally . . .

A call last week from John Farris, pastor of the Cloverdale Baptist Church in Natchez, reminded me a great deal of an earlier revival meeting in which I was involved and out of which came my decision to go into vocational Christian work.

Pastor Farris called to tell us of the revival meeting that was continuing at Cloverdale. This church with just a few more than 200 resident members had been in revival for a week and found it couldn't stop it. It was into the second week when he called. At that point there had been 14 additions by profession of faith. The church had reported one baptism for the 1975-76 church year.

The similarity to the early 50s revival at Bellview Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, was in a concentrated period of prayer preceding the meet-

ing. His church had a 10-day prayer period. During that 10-day period every person who made a profession of faith had been prayed for specifically. Farris reported 130 in Sunday School for the middle Sunday of the meeting, hurt feelings soothed, and many returning to church attendance who had dropped out.

Out in Midland, also in a small church, we had a 30-day period of prayer before the revival got under way. It, too, was scheduled for one week. At the end of the week we had experienced 100 additions to the church and decided to keep going. Most of these were professions of faith.

I was a young deacon (26) in the church and was the volunteer song leader. It was one of the great experiences of my life. I was not doing the song leading for the revival. An evangelistic song leader named Carlos

Gruber was leading the singing and playing his violin. The evangelist was A. L. Pennington of the Oklahoma Convention staff.

Perhaps it was because I was not involved in the daily planning and execution that goes with a revival but could relax and soak it all in that I was able to hear the Lord speaking and made my decision for full-time service during that first week.

At Cloverdale Fred Morris, pastor of Wellman Baptist Church in Lincoln County, was the evangelist. Farris led the singing.

Farris has reported that both men and women have formed prayer circles as a result of the revival. Even though the meetings are over, the revival may continue for some time. His comment was that this is an illustration that a revival cannot be worked up; it has to be prayed down. — DTM

Letters To The Editor

Thanks From Montana

Dear Sir:

Our people at Trinity Baptist Church wish to thank all the folks in Mississippi for their financial support for mission work here in Montana. Without your help we could not have sponsored the missions and Vacation Bible School work.

We are especially grateful for the youths from Alta Woods Baptist Church. Their work here this summer is already showing results. Big Timber is continuing to have a Bible study. Trinity is hoping to begin a mission in Kimberly Heights, where a mission Vacation Bible School was held.

We want to thank you for your prayers in the past. Please continue to pray for us in the future.

Al Hanusch, Pastor
Trinity Baptist Church
Billings, Mt.

Stop ERA

Dear Sir:

I am concerned that many Christian women are deceived about the Equal Rights Amendment, and really do not know what they are supporting. I am especially concerned that some of the younger women are members of National Organization for Women

(NOW), the real sponsors of ERA, and I hold in my hand a copy of their publication urging women to become members. I quote directly from this paper:

"As a member of NOW you'll know that your membership fee will be supporting worthwhile projects such as a National Action Center in Washington, D. C., which provides resources for TASK FORCES pioneering on every issue of the women's movement, including the Equal Rights Amendment, homemaker's rights, Lesbian Rights, abortion, rape, sports, military service, etc."

Another deception that needs to be set straight is that most citizens, men AND women, think ERA means equal pay for equal work. Not so. There are already four federal existing laws insuring this particular phase of their emphasis: "The Civil Rights Act of 1964," the "1972 Equal Employment Opportunity Act," which definitely guarantees equal pay for equal work, "The Equal Pay Act," and "The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act." ERA will add nothing to women's status in the employment field.

In November the I.W.Y. (Int'l Women's Year Conference) will be held in Houston, Texas. Each state has had an individual conference, and when Christians, both men and women, have realized the ominous threat to the family unit, they have rallied to combat their proposals. I was personally in attendance at the conference held in Jackson, and I shall never forget to my dying day, the 2,000 Christians crowded in the narrow hallway, waiting to enter the Plenary Session which they had called for 2 o'clock, and doors were not opened until 4 P.M. We began to sing, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," "Amazing Grace," "God Bless America." It was thrilling to hear 2,000 voices raised in praise to God, and to acknowledge Him as our Strength and Leader. But amazingly, not a single reporter was there, not a TV camera, no acknowledgment by the media. I would say politicians had better wake up — the majority of the citizens are not for ERA.

Mrs. J. R. Gilfoy
3759 King's Highway
Jackson, MS 39216

Prayers Will Be Answered

Dear Sir:

Thank you for printing my article on our young people and how a national

report can mislead a parent and cause mistrust and mental anguish on both parent and child. This mistrust could cause nihilism in the child at a later date and time in life. When this happens to the child then crime is only a breath away.

I look around me every day here in the Mississippi State Penitentiary and I see young men and women who, if the truth were known, had a twisted childhood. I have little doubt that 99½ percent of these wayward children had a mother and father that insisted they go to church. However, a lot of churches are fashion plates and a social gathering place to discuss future golf and Bridge Club dates.

I know that I could never be able to travel and speak to PTA or clubs through Mississippi or to churches here in my state, but do feel that I should try somehow to reach out from behind prison bars that I have known for 27 years of my 45 years of age and plea with moms and dads and, yes, even with pastors and deacons.

I have faith that I will be heard and my prayers will be answered. I once had a fire truck religion . . . I only called on it in emergencies. Now I have the faith and the knowledge that Jesus did die for my sins and that He arose and that He lives to come again. A simple faith but a true faith.

Thank you again,
Ken Bankston
41124 - Hospital Lab Assigned
Mississippi State Penitentiary
Parchman, MS 38735

Pleasant Words

"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24). Folks who say pleasant words always refresh us. Something about the pleasant look on their faces, their cheerful outlook on life, makes us enjoy being with them. Everyone can be pleasant.

There is always something complimentary to be said about everyone. A sincere compliment, which expresses appreciation, is heartwarming. It lights a glow in the heart of the receiver and creates a feeling of well-being which is truly "health to the bones."

It's a known fact that frustrations, anger, and tensions can cause illness, while a healthy attitude, a cheerful attitude, a merry heart "doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22). — Lena Scott Price

Faces And Places

By Anne McWilliams

Veterans Day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice between the Allies and Germany on November 11, 1918, after World War I. The United States, Great Britain, and France set November 11 as a day of remembrance for those who had given their lives in the war.

In Canada it was called Remembrance Day. In England the nearest Sunday to November 11 was proclaimed Remembrance Sunday.

After the Korean War, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill, June 1, 1964, changing the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day and proclaiming the occasion as a day for honoring veterans of all wars.

Special services are held at Arlington Cemetery and at military cemeteries in other countries. Flowers are placed on the graves of many servicemen. Sometimes there are parades and speeches.

On the train from Bournemouth to Christchurch, I met a fragile lady who barely survived the terrors of World War II in London. Her blonde hair and blue eyes classified her as typically British. At first she seemed somewhat reserved, but when Joan and I began talking with her, we realized that she was lonely.

Her conversation led us to believe that she was well educated and had traveled widely. She said her husband had been an army officer and that they had lived in many places, but he had died last year.

"I have a lot of pain in my head," she said, "from tiny metal fragments that have been there since World War II. Our house was bombed and my small daughter and I were buried alive for nine hours. You will never know how that is until you have experienced it. When they dug us out, my daughter was blind. She is married now and lives in another town, but I see her fairly often."

I guess you could say I observed

Furlough Speakers . . .

Other Dates Than Dec. 4

By Stanley D. Stamps

The telephone rang. "Hello," I answered into the receiver.

"This is Jane Smithson of First Baptist Church in Neighborton," came the response from the other end. "We're planning our annual Foreign Missions emphasis and would like to invite you to speak for us on Sunday, December 4. Can you be with us? We do so want a missionary speaker for that occasion," she continued.

"Thank you Ms. Smithson," I acknowledged and went on to say, "I really would like to, but I am already committed to speak in our host church that Sunday."

"Well, about either the Sunday before or afterward?" she inquired.

"I'm sorry, because those Sundays have also been engaged for several months. But if you would like, I can come a weekday night and I also have some Sundays open in September and October," I added.

There was a brief pause followed by a barely audible sigh. Ms. Smithson took up the conversation again, "We were hoping you might be available for the First Sunday of December. I'll have to check with the committee and let you know if we can use you."

Fictitious Names

The name in the above conversation is fictitious and, so far I've never heard of a town in Mississippi called Neighborton. But the rest of the dialog is true. As a matter of fact, it was repeated often early in the fall.

I relate this to point out one of the dilemmas a missionary on furlough faces — a well filled calendar during the annual emphasis on Foreign Missions, and available dates at other times of the year, when he or she would equally be happy to accept engagements. There should never be a "closed season" for missions emphasis in our churches, nor an "open season" on missionaries just in November and December. All missionaries on furlough I know are quite happy to accept invitations to speak in churches and for church groups at any time during the year.

Just as the time of the year is no obstacle, neither is the size of the church. Missionaries are just as willing to visit in small rural churches as well as in larger town churches. It has also been our personal policy to accept invitations on the basis of "first come, first served" regardless of the size of the church or the distance to be traveled. Nor is the honorarium or love offering a concern, for we can bear testimony that Mississippi churches are considerate and generous, a fact we appreciate.

Visiting the churches that uphold us in prayer and by their contributions through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the most satisfying part of furlough. That's really what furlough is for,



Veterans Day on July 17 this year. That Sunday morning Joan and I attended the Anglican worship service at Coventry Cathedral, at Coventry, England. We had spent the night before at Leicester, where once William Carey was pastor. Hastings Hall, where we slept, in the middle of the botanical garden of the University of Leicester, was very, very old — and cold. We shivered all night in the middle of July, under two blankets.

As our bus entered Coventry we could see more modern buildings than we had seen anywhere in the country until then. "That's because this was one of the most heavily bombed cities," someone explained.

I had seen the ruin of Coventry Cathedral in movies; yet I was not prepared for the impact the actual place would have on my emotions. The centuries-old building was bombed and burned in 1940. I looked at the walls that are now only an empty shell and I looked through the glassless

windows, magnificent still, outlined against the sky. The tears streamed down my cheeks as I remembered my young cousin, Henderson Langley, who died on a battlefield in Italy, and thought of all the sorrows ever caused by war.

But the English people had the faith and the stamina to rebuild. There beside the old walls I saw another, far more modern, Coventry Cathedral.

An enormous sculpture graces the front of the new building. Satan lies prostrate and the Archangel Michael is standing over him, pinning him down with his foot. The powerful symbol spoke to me of the ultimate defeat of the perpetrator of sin and wars.

I walked up the steps of the new cathedral to read the words on the cornerstone: "To the glory of God this cornerstone was laid by Queen Elizabeth II on the 23rd day of March, 1956. Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid which is Jesus Christ."

of intellectual and spiritual energy which on the mission field experiences a constant drain.

Furlough also gives the missionaries, who all too often are worn down by constant work or the unrelenting onslaught of tropical diseases, necessary time to recuperate their bodily strength and to restore endangered health. It also serves as a time to reequip with clothes which fit comfortably and are in style and to replace appliances and gadgets that add a touch of home (USA) to the missionary household. Actually, furlough provides an opportunity to catch up during one year on cultural, social and material developments that have taken place in the homeland during the previous four years, not to mention theological developments.

I'm thankful for furloughs and enjoy them. However, I find them frustrating sometimes — frustrating because I'm away from the post of duty I'm so acquainted with and feel my talents are best fitted for; frustrating because I find myself thrust into a life style (to use a term that came into popular over-use since last furlough) that I am not acquainted with nor emotionally equipped to keep up with at first. Arriving home for furlough is much like a jolt experienced upon sudden acceleration of a vehicle. You know it's coming but you just aren't prepared for it.

Furlough Frustrating
Furlough is also frustrating because there is so much I want to tell, to share, but I find the opportunities often limited by loaded church or denominational calendars and the time to do it in often restricted by the traditional worship format that leaves scarcely 25 minutes for the message.

One of the greatest joys during furlough is to talk about our country, the people with whom we live and work, their spiritual needs and the victories we have witnessed for the Lord during the past four years. I like to relate the experiences I have lived out in real-life sweat and tears as well as prayer and soulsearching, to what the Bible has to say about our mission mandate to make disciples in all the world.

No, I don't consider myself too busy. Instead, I find myself wishing to be busier visiting churches, getting to know pastors and church leaders and speaking to groups of any age, large or small. I feel that what I have expressed here might well be seconded by other furloughing missionaries. We are as busy as you make us; not some unknown "they," and we're always glad to respond to any invitation extended. However, we would like some flexibility in order to plan with you a mutually acceptable time.

I sometimes wish I could be three of me, then maybe I could be free to accept all the invitations to speak on December 4, and other dates, too.

Stanley D. Stamps is a missionary on furlough from Nicaragua. He lives in Clinton.

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Work On Building Of Faith To Begin Nov. 15 In Rio

By Anne McWilliams

David Gomes, well-known Brazilian Baptist who visited in Mississippi recently, said that the cornerstone for the 22-story Building of Faith will be laid Nov. 15 in Rio.

The building is unusual in that it is a project of one Baptist church that was organized 11 years ago with only 19 members. It is called the Church of Hope, and Gomes is the pastor.

While in Mississippi, Gomes visited in Yazoo City, Crystal Springs, Canton, and Jackson. He spoke at First Church, Crystal Springs.

On Nov. 15, the date of the beginning of the building, a service of celebration and thanksgiving to God will be held at the Maracanazinho Arena in Rio de Janeiro. Gomes said that 50,000 people are expected to attend. The governor of the state of Rio and other government representatives have been invited.

The Building of Faith will include six floors for the Church of Hope and for

headquarters of the Bible School of the Air. David Gomes has been writer and preacher for the Rio-based radio program, the Bible School of the Air, for more than 25 years, including the 14 years that he was the executive secretary of Brazilian Baptists' Home Mission Board. The program is heard all over South America and in many other countries around the world.

The Carlos Magallanes Company that is constructing the building will retain 16 floors and give the Baptists the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth, and the top floor, in return for their own use of the very valuable land on the busiest street in the center of downtown Rio.

The Church of Hope was begun in 1966 with 19 members. In 1969 the 25 x 77 foot lot next to the church went up for sale, and David Gomes caught a vision of breath-taking possibilities for use of that lot as a witness to Christ.

The story of the purchase of "the miracle lot" was told in the Baptist Record in the fall of 1970. Now, after

seven years, construction is to begin on the Building of Faith. In the beginning no one knew how the lot could be paid for or how such a building could be erected. But David Gomes said, "God will give us that building."

After the lot was paid for, a controversy arose over the title. Those who sold the lot had been in bankruptcy and the title had not been clear. When that matter was settled, a company signed a contract to erect the Building of Faith in exchange for a certain number of floors. Then the church learned that no building could be constructed in the city that did not provide a certain number of parking spaces. Gomes did not want to give up part of the church space for parking. So another builder was found — one that already owned a nearby parking garage.

Gomes said, "You have heard that garage space in the center of Rio is almost impossible to get. According to the laws of Brazil, for the size of the building we will need 107 vacancies for parking. Now you are going to see the finger of God in this. Carlos Magallanes had exactly 107 spaces for parking. They did not have 108 or 105. They had 107 — no more, no less."

The Church of Hope in its 10th year had a membership of 300. It had four missions, two of them soon to be constituted as the Church of Faith and the Church of Love.

The sanctuary of the Church of Hope is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day, and prayer meeting is held every week day at noon.

David Gomes, who has been pastor of the church since its beginning, has been active in the affairs of the Baptist World Alliance. He also teaches in the Baptist seminary in Rio. Born in the state of Minas Gerais, he was baptized by a Southern Baptist missionary, O. P. Maddox. His mother had been baptized in 1916 by another Southern Baptist missionary, Daniel Crosland.

While Gomes was attending a Baptist high school in Belo Horizonte, he and Missionary Rosalee Appleby worked together in establishing a mission Sunday School that later became a church. Mrs. Appleby lives in Canton now and Gomes visited her while he was in Mississippi.



David Gomes, pastor of the Church of Hope and preacher for the Bible School of the Air in Rio, Brazil, displays a picture of the projected Building of Faith. The cornerstone of this 22-story building is to be laid Nov. 15. The building will house the Church of Hope, radio broadcasting headquarters, book store, and/or library. A thanksgiving service for the beginning of the building will be held at the Maracanazinho Arena on Nov. 15 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Choctaw Chief Announces Church Building Plans At Canaan

The Canaan Baptist Church of New Choctaw Association, of which the late B. D. Isaac was pastor and benefactor for many years, is embarking on a building drive.

The Church Building Fund Drive, for the building of a new sanctuary will begin with a Kick-Off Service on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m.

Calvin Isaac, tribal chief of the Mississippi Choctaws, and church secretary for Canaan Church, has announced that the special kick-off program on Nov. 13 will include a program put on by the Sunday School children of Canaan Church, and guest speakers.

He said that an invitation is being extended to all the Choctaw Indian churches, and that a dinner on the ground is planned.

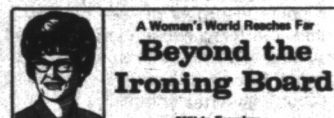
A part of the special agenda for Kick-Off Day will be discussion of the kind of building the church would like to have. Included in the plans are a sanctuary with baptistry and foyer, two church offices, four large

classrooms, a kitchenette, activities room with library, and two restrooms.

Long range plans include the babysitting needs of the church families who would like to have day care services provided for their children while the parents work.

Members of the Church Building Fund Drive committee are Calvin Isaac, chairman, Annie Lou Denson, and Edward John.

Emmett Denson is the pastor.



A Woman's World Reaches For Beyond the Ironing Board
Wilda Fancher

From rocking chair to rocking chair — the one in which I rocked our boys until their legs were long enough to reach the floor and help with the rocking, to the one in which I will sit when I am too old to do otherwise — my life has had and will have the primary purpose of expressing, in every way I know how, my love for my family.

Recently I talked with a book editor who told me that his press has need of a book about how family members can show their love. He didn't promise a contract for the book, but he does want me to try my hand at it, so I am busy with thinking and writing about ways of saying I love you. You may be sure that I am enjoying many memories I had not thought of in a long time.

One of those is a saying we had when the boys were very small. One of us would say, "I love you."

The other would say, "How much do you love me?"

The first would say, "Seven."

This came from the meaning of seven in the scripture, meaning "complete" or, as we translated it, "all I can."

It has been a while since I said to one of the boys, outloud, "I love you seven." But I have said it in many other ways.

You may be sure, too, that a few memories that are not as enjoyable are creeping in — times and ways when I failed to say I love you, or when it must have seemed that I said I don't love you right now. So I'm also thinking of behavior which doesn't say I love you.

Would you help me with this project? Would you write — or call, if it isn't long distance — and share with me some of the ways your family has expressed love for one another? Especially, the unusual ways. Also, if you will, maybe share some of the ways you failed to say I love you? My address is Box 9151, Jackson, Ms. 39206.

Please don't be shy. If I get a contract for the book, I'll get your permission and approval on anything of yours that goes into the manuscript. Isn't that fair enough?

P.S. Jim flew solo last week. He, the plane, and I survived.



Dinner on the grounds was part of the agenda for Harvest Day at Straight Bayou on November 6. Table decorations were arrangements using cotton. The day's offering was to go toward the final payment of a building improvement loan. This year the parking area was paved, and new pews have been ordered. Since the first Harvest Day held 14 years ago, the church has been brick-veneered, the sanctuary carpeted, and the grounds, which include a bayou, have been landscaped.



Dean Powell and Sarah Hodnett were among the young people who presented special music during the afternoon program. Dean played the piano while both of them sang "Sweet, Sweet Spirit."

Harvest Day At Straight Bayou

Mickey Reynolds, center, pastor of Deer Creek, Rolling Fork, preached at the morning service. Tommy Kelly, left, of Itta Bena led the singing. Bobby Whittington, right, of Clarksdale played the piano.

Thursday, November 10, 1977

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Daisy Wall of Mt. Vernon Church, Mississippi Association, has completed 20 years perfect attendance in Sunday School. Mrs. Wall is congratulated, above, by the pastor of the church, Tom Vassar.

W. Mark Moore, consultant in the Children's Section of the Sunday School Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and former Mississippian, has accepted a position on the staff at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, Ark. He will be minister of childhood education. He and his wife, Hilda, have already moved and may be addressed at 2612 Lakeview Road, North Little Rock, Ark. 72116.



Mt. Nebo Church, Collinsville, ordained Al Smith as deacon on Oct. 30. David Smith of Toronto, Canada, brother of the candidate, gave the ordination message. Earlier in the year the family dedicated their lives to the service of the Lord: Elizabeth and Al Smith, above, have three daughters, Kimberly, Amy and Susan.

Norma and Randy Zimmer, along with Phyllis and Ed Chetakin, were special guests at First Church, Tupelo, on Sunday, Oct. 23. Afterward, First Church and Calvary, Tupelo, joined together for an old-fashioned dinner on the ground in First Church's new Christian Life Center. Norma Zimmer appears on the Lawrence Welk show weekly and is soloist for Billy Graham Crusades. Phyllis Chetakin started playing the piano at the age of three. She now travels in concert throughout the United States. She has played in many crusades, including appearances with Billy Graham and World Wide Pictures.



Mt. Nebo Church, Newton County, crowned three Ateen queens on Sept. 14. They were, left to right: Marilyn Leach, Debbie Davis, and Barbara McKinlin.

Pastor emeritus John W. Landrum was recognized in the morning worship service Sunday, Nov. 6, at First Church, Grenada. That day marked the 25th anniversary of Landrum's beginning his ministry in First Church. He and Mrs. Landrum, who live now in Clinton, were present for the special recognition service. John Lee Taylor is the pastor at Grenada.



J. B. Smith and Mrs. Smith were honored with a reception on their 50th wedding anniversary. The reception was held at First Church, Ackerman, where Smith was twice pastor; it was given by their children. The Smiths were married Sept. 4, 1927, in Sardis by Pastor Joe Sturdivant.

The Smiths' children are Marjorie (Mrs. Henry Bishop) of Clinton; James, pastor of First Church, Houston; Billy of Greenwood; and Jeanne (Mrs. Bryant Smith) of Columbus.

Smith is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. Other pastorates besides Ackerman included Mackville, Ky.; First, Hollandale; and First, Magee. Now semi-retired, he is serving at Fentress near Ackerman.

All the children, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren attended the reception, along with friends from Magee, Mendenhall, Houston, and other areas of the state.



Sherman Barnette and his wife were honored during Pastor Appreciation Day at Friendship Church (Grenada) recently. Several testimonies of appreciation were given and Finley Evans was guest speaker. A love offering was taken. Lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall. This was the Barnettes' second anniversary at Friendship. They have two children, Mandy and Chad.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, will be one of the speakers for the Georgia Baptist Pastors' Conference which begins Nov. 13, prior to the opening of the Georgia Baptist Convention at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta Nov. 14. Pollard will speak on "When It's Time to Give Up the Huddle."

Larry Black, minister of music, First Church, Jackson, led the music for the annual meeting of Southern Baptists in New England. The meeting was held at Worcester, Mass. Nov. 4 and 5.

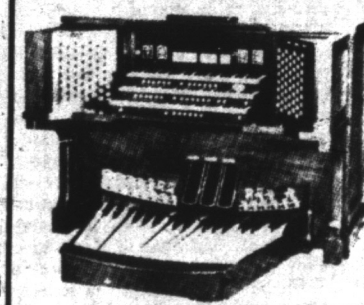
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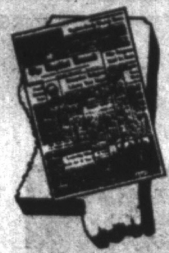
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BR 2



Just For The Record



First Church, Newton recently completed a Family Life Building. The building, top photo, was opened Sunday, Sept. 18. It contains 13,250 square feet with a regular size gym, dining room and kitchen, two lounges, office, exercise room, game room, youth center, and media center plus shower and dressing rooms. The Building Committee, bottom photo, left to right, are: Preston Beatty; Hardy Denham, pastor; Robert Cochran, chairman; Frank May; W. A. McClendon; H. L. May; and Maury Gunter. The cost of the building project was \$250,000.

Riverport Church, Greenville, will celebrate Harvest Day on Sunday, Nov. 20. Ladies will dress in long dresses and men in their overalls for the day's events which will include preaching, dinner on the ground, and an all-afternoon singing. M. E. Perry is the pastor.

Wayside Church, Warren County, in the Jeff Davis community, will observe annual homecoming on Nov. 20. Services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and continue with preaching at 11 and dinner on the grounds at 12 noon. Congregational and group singing will be the program for the afternoon service that will begin at 1:30. Alton Hodnett is the pastor.

Camden Church, Madison County, which is almost 100 years old, "is still doing the necessary things to keep the church in working order," according to Ellie Hamilton, one of the Sunday School teachers. They have called Robert Boykin as pastor, and elected Louise Faulk as church clerk and Mary Guber as both Sunday School director and WMU director. David Guber, the Camden pianist, goes to Good Hope Church, Madison County, as pianist there on the fourth Sunday, and "takes a carload of people to worship with them." The Good Hope pastor, Walter Grayson, teaches Bible lessons for young people and plays the guitar. Members of Good Hope on a recent Sunday were invited to worship at Camden.

Brother-Sister Act



Bebe

Bill

"Raymond Baptist Church is justifiably proud of its youth," says Sam Mason, pastor. Two examples of the kind of participation characteristic of Raymond youth are currently being set by Bill and Bebe Boteler, children of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Boteler. Bill is a graduate of Raymond High, Hinds Junior College, and

Mississippi College and is in his last year at the University of Tennessee Dental School at Memphis where he is serving as president of the Christian Dental Association. He was a part of a medical mission to Central America this summer and is and has been active in B.S.U.

Bebe is a graduate of Raymond High School and is in her second year at Hinds Junior College where she serves as a cheerleader and as president of the Baptist Student Union.

Bill is seeking the Lord's leadership now regarding his future which could include seeking an appointment as a dental missionary. Bebe is preparing to work in some type of ministry to the deaf.

James Garner Dies At 85

James Monroe Garner, retired pastor and denominational worker from Texas, and pastor emeritus of University Church, Hattiesburg, died on November 4 at 85. He served many churches in his long ministry in Texas in addition to serving as associate editor of The Baptist Standard, Endowment Secretary for Baylor Hospital and Medical School, vice president of East Texas Baptist College and fund raiser for Baptist Memorial Hospital in San Antonio.

The Garners moved to Mississippi in 1958 for their retirement.

Central, McNeill, Burns

Central Church, McNeill, in Pearl River Association, burned in the late afternoon of Oct. 21. The fire began in the kitchen but the reason for it has not been determined.

Pastor James Smith reported that the kitchen and fellowship area near the kitchen are both total losses. He said that all the educational unit was severely damaged and that the interior of that building will have to be completely redone. All the carpets there were ruined, besides walls and some furnishings.

The interior of the sanctuary was damaged by the smoke and heat.

Nobody was at the church when the fire broke out. Someone passing in a car first discovered the blaze.

Central Church, which has about 73 members, is relatively new; the sanctuary was completed just one year ago. Members of the church did much of the work on the building, Pastor Smith said.

The pastor, who lives at Picayune, said that the church did have some insurance — probably "half enough." He said the contractor estimated that the damage in terms of dollars would be at least \$74,000.

Devotional

The Good Life

By Curtis Roland, Pastor, East Morton

He hath shewed thee, O Man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8)

"What doth the Lord require of thee?" Micah put this question to the people of his day and then went on to answer it for them. God asks of his people that they live a good life. This good life is defined as a life that be wholly committed to the constant practice of justice, mercy, and humility before God. This does not mean simply that we should practice justice regularly, or make it a point to be merciful and kind, or strive always to be humble. It goes far deeper than that.

Micah's message means that because of the inner nature of our lives and because of our dedication and commitment to God our normal behavior will be one consisting of justice, mercy and humility.

With her aunt, a little girl was visiting a beautiful cathedral. The sun's rays were streaming through a stained-glass window. As the little girl looked at the figures that stood out in the strong light in the window she asked her aunt, as she pointed to one of them, "who is that?"

The aunt replied, "That is St. Peter." Then she pointed to another and asked what that one was.

The aunt replied, "That is St. James."

As she pointed to another she was told, "That is St. John."

The little girl said with a sigh of satisfaction, "Well, now I know what a saint is. A saint is somebody the light shines through."

Micah's words form a clear summary of the sort of lives God expects His children to live, not because they try hard to do so but because that is the kind of people they are.

Through the Grace of God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who brings power and gives guidance, justice, mercy, and humility do we shine forth as we commit our all.

Staff Changes

Hugh G. Shoemaker has accepted a call to Pleasant Hill Church, New Hebron. The church requested that First Church, Magee, Oliver Ladnier, pastor, ordain Shoemaker, and the ordination council met there on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 30.

Terry Dwight Mayo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dee Mayo of Louisville, is the new pastor of Bethany Church, Ackerman, in Choctaw Association. He was recently ordained to preach by the Shiloh Church, Winston Association. Mayo is married to the former Shirley Ann Polk.

The less you know about your own future and the other fellow's past, the better off you are.

Sammy Jones McDonald, former youth pastor of Antioch Church, Simpson County, has accepted the position as minister of music and youth at Providence Church, Pearl. Harry Gipsen is the pastor. McDonald is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sammy McDonald, Rt. 2, Terry. He was licensed to the ministry by Antioch Church in February, 1976. He plans to enter Mississippi College in the fall of 1978.

Rich Munn has accepted the call of First Church, Grenada, to become minister of music. He will begin his work there on Nov. 6. John Lee Taylor is pastor.

Robert Boykin is the new pastor of Camden Church, Madison County. He succeeds Ira Metts, who left because of illness.

Kenny Adams has accepted a position as minister of music and youth at First Church, Itta Bena, Wilbur Webb, pastor. Adams, native of Kosciusko, served as minister of music and youth at Noxapater before he and his wife Betty moved to Itta Bena.

He graduated from Holmes Junior College and received a Master of Music Education degree at MC.

George Pitts has resigned as pastor of New Hope Church, Attala County, to accept a call to Mt. Moriah Church in Choctaw Association. He had served New Hope for seven years.

Sunday School Lesson: International For November 13

Active Christian Compassion

By Wm. J. Fallis
Luke 14:12-14; 16:19-31;
James 2:1-7

Last year after the killer earthquake in Guatemala, thirty-five Florida Baptist laymen went down to help pick up the pieces. They went at their own expense, offering a variety of skills and experience; but they spent much of their time pulling down unsafe walls and clearing out rubble. Whenever possible they held worship services at night and talked with adults and children about Christ. It was hard and dusty work — "active Christian compassion." To be sure, it gave some intangible compensation, but there was no money in it. Instead of just tut-tutting about a tragedy hundreds of miles away, instead of writing a check for relief work, these men got involved themselves. Compassion helps only in action.

The Lesson Explained
Feed Those Who Cannot Feed You
(Luke 14:12-14)

Jesus had been invited to dine in the home of a Pharisee, and most of this chapter tells some of the things he said. At one point he spoke directly to his host and urged him not to limit his guest list to friends, relatives, and rich neighbors who could be expected to return the favor. There was no merit in that kind of hospitality. Instead, he should give a banquet for "the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind." Not only were they looked down on by the advantaged people, but they were unable to repay any social "debts." Such a host would receive adequate compensation "at the resurrection." Jesus probably did not mean that his host should never entertain his friends, but he ought to expand his horizons to include the unloved.

A Story Of Reversed Lives
(Luke 16:19-31)

All of chapter 16 is concerned with

the right use of wealth; its two parables and the sayings in verses 10-13 were addressed to the disciples with the Pharisees listening in (v. 14). The second parable tells of two men, one very rich and the other very poor. The rich man wore the most expensive clothing — fit for royalty — and had a banquet every day. At the other extreme, Lazarus may have been a cripple as well as being poor. At the gate of the rich man's house or property he lived on leftovers — perhaps pieces of bread which some people of that day used to wipe their mouths and hands.

Suddenly, both men died and conditions were reversed. Lazarus received the place of honor right next to the father of Israel as though at some heavenly banquet. But the rich man found himself in Hades (or Sheol), the

place of the dead. In his torment he begged Abraham to send Lazarus to cool his tongue with water. In his reply, Abraham seemed to say that life after death should be just the opposite of life on earth, but other passages make it clear that God's judgment is based on more than that. Evidently the rich man was callous and insensitive to people like Lazarus. He had no compassion.

Unchanged Even By A Miracle
(Luke 16:27-31)

When Abraham explained to the rich man that a great chasm separated him from them, one that could not be penetrated, the rich man then showed some belated compassion, at least for his five brothers on earth. Evidently, he felt that their attitudes were like his and they might follow him into tor-

ment. Again, he asked for Lazarus to run an errand; his basic feeling for Lazarus had not changed. But Abraham said that "Moses and the prophets" — most of the Old Testament — offered enough guidance and warning to anyone who would listen to change his life's direction. They had been adequate for others.

But the rich man probably knew more about his brothers than he was willing to mention, and he remembered how he had ignored "Moses and the prophets." His brothers needed something extra, someone returned from the dead. But Abraham was adamant. If they rejected God's Word, they were the kind of men who would not be impressed by a miracle. The rich man's compassion came too late.

Sunday School Lesson: Life And Work For November 13

Limiting The Help Jesus Offers

By Bill Duncan
Long Beach, First
(John 5)

Have you ever backed out of your driveway and put your car in the forward gear only to discover it would only move slowly?

Did you discover that the emergency brake was on? The motor was working but a force was holding back the forward motion.

So often in life we see the work of God limited because some force has the brakes on. These forces may be in the church or outside the church but they are real.

The ways of God, although right and good, are by no means popular with men. The healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda was the first record of the Jew's opposition to Jesus. How did it occur?

Jesus came by and discovered a certain man lying at the pool who had been sick 38 years. It may seem strange that Jesus would ask, "Do you want to be cured?" But Jesus wanted him to admit his helplessness. Then Jesus gave the most amazing instruc-

tions to a man who had been unable to walk, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." Immediately! He did not wait to act in obedience to the command. He was made whole.

This story speaks to men jammed into corners of helplessness, and the Lord is just as ready to help bring them out of the valley of difficulty. In the first place, Jesus came to the man. He did not have to go hunting for Jesus. God is interested in men, and the Lord Jesus Christ, alive and concerned, is close beside anyone in distress. In the second place, the man was challenged to confess his need. He had to recognize that he alone could not do what was necessary. Christians today are not exempt from realizing their own inability, apart from the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

One would suppose that the Jews would rejoice in the good which had come to their fellow citizen, this lifetime cripple. But they found fault, pointing out that the healing took place on the Sabbath. They also claimed that the healed man had no business carrying his bundle, quilts or cot which was against the law.

The reason for their opposition was plain to see. The miracle made Jesus a serious threat to the Jewish rulers. He

was a threat in his ability, for He could do so much more than they could accomplish. He was a threat in His popularity. People came in multitudes to hear Him. He was a threat in His example, because He actually did things on the Sabbath of which the Jews strongly disapproved. So instead of rejoicing in the good that was done, they criticized.

To the man who was healed, life was different because of the man from Nazareth. He was healed and he would obey whatever he was told to do. Jesus revealed Himself to this man, but gave him further instructions. Blessed by God, Jesus told him, "You are now to be thankful to God for it. Try not to do anything contrary to the will of God." The Jewish leaders in hearing this had even more reasons to attack Jesus!

The most implacable and dangerous enemies the Lord had were among religious leaders! They resented anything that was contrary to their ideas. They utterly disregarded the good He did, condemning Him for not following their rules and regulations.

Have you ever heard of anything like that before? Our churches are conducted by Christians who are after all, human beings. People can be saved and devoted to the Lord's work and yet

be concerned about their personal position in the eyes of others. If another person tries a different method and is successful, such people very quickly resent what is being done by someone else. This is one of the most serious hindrances that harms the Lord's work.

Very often we fail to accomplish some great work for God because of what someone might say. We want to be approved and we do not want to be different. It is so easy to be pharisaical. To criticize and fail to see any good is sad. But it is sadly common among religious people.

Renewal Notes

Ebenezer Baptist Church in Hernando held a lay renewal retreat October 21, 22 and 23. Pastor John Mahony introduced Bob Williams of FBC in Jackson, who directed the weekend's activities which included sharing sessions and personal prayer time, studying God's Word, and witnessing at home and in the community. Other members of the retreat team from Jackson, were Mrs. Bob Williams, Miss Marguerite Briscoe, Copie Myers, Darl Walker, Ron Kimbro, and Cam Sillers.

Revival Dates

First Church, Gautier: Word and Song Revival; Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, November 19, 20, and 21; services at 7 nightly and at 10:30 on Sunday morning; Ron and Patricia Owens, evangelists. (Although Ron and Patricia Owens have sung classical, Broadway, and pop repertoire, they are now known for their "Sermons in Song" in which they share their pilgrimage through word and music. Concert tours have taken them coast to coast in the United States and Canada, to Europe, Asia, and Africa. A portion of each year is spent working on foreign mission fields, particularly in Europe. She is a native of Mississippi. He was born in Canada.)

Corinth (Jasper): at Thanksgiving, Nov. 23-26; Norman Hester, evangelist; Edd Holloman, pastor; Pop Stone, music evangelist.

"From love comes grief, from greed comes fear; he who is free from greed knows neither grief nor fear." Dhammapada, c. 5th century B.C.

"Love of money is the disease which makes men most groveling and pitiful." Longinus, "On the Sublime."

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